

**New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services  
Division of Aging and Community Services**

**AT-RISK CRITERIA FOR NURSING FACILITY PLACEMENT**

The following is a list of “at-risk” criteria to assist the hospital in determining if a referral for long term care services, either in a nursing facility or in the community, is indicated.

- I. Medical** – Has the patient experienced any of the following:
  1. Catastrophic illness requiring major changes in lifestyle and/or living conditions, i.e. Multiple Sclerosis, Stroke, Multiple Trauma, AIDS, Amputation, Neurological Disease, Cancer, Birth Defect(s), End Stage Renal Disease.
  2. Debilitation and/or chronic illness causing progressive deterioration of self-care skills, i.e. Diabetes, Fractures, Progressive Pulmonary Disease, Severe Chronic Diseases, Spina Bifida.
  3. Multiple hospital admissions within the past six (6) months. (Do not refer patients admitted directly from nursing facilities.)
  4. Previous nursing facility admissions within the past two (2) years.
  5. Major health needs, i.e. tube feedings, special equipment or treatments, rehabilitative/restorative services.
- II. Social** – In addition to the medical criteria, does patient meet any of the following social situations:
  1. Homeless
  2. Lives alone and/or has no immediate support system
  3. Primary caregiver is not able to provide required care services
  4. Lack of adequate support systems
- III. Financial (as of 1/1/04)** – Does the patient meet any of the following income/assets tests:
  1. Currently eligible for Medicaid
  2. Monthly income at/or below the current Medicaid institutional cap of \$1,692.00 and:
    - a. Has no spouse in the community and resources no greater than \$2,000.00 (plus \$1,500.00 burial fund), or
    - b. Has no spouse in the community and resources below \$39,000.00 (plus \$1,500.00 burial fund). This is an indication that the patient may become Medicaid eligible within the next six (6) months by spending down assets in a nursing facility as private pay, or
    - c. Has a spouse in the community with combined countable resources at/or below \$92,760 (plus \$1,500.00 burial fund). This allows for calculation of the community spouse’s resources under the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988.
  3. Monthly income at/or below the current New Jersey Care Special Medicaid Programs maximum monthly income limit of \$749.00 and:
    - a. Has no spouse in the community and resources no greater than \$4,000.00 (plus \$1,500.00 burial fund), or
    - b. Has no spouse in the community and resources at/or below \$39,000.00 (plus \$1,500.00 burial fund). This is an indication that the patient may become Medicaid eligible within the next six (6) months by spending down assets in a nursing facility as private pay, or
    - c. Has a spouse in the community with combined countable resources at/or below \$92,760 (plus \$1,500.00 burial fund). This allows for calculation of the community spouse’s resources under the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988.